







City and County of the City of Chester.



# ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND  
COUNCILLORS OF THE CITY AND  
COUNTY OF THE CITY OF CHESTER

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE CITY  
IN 1934.

BY

J. W. LOBBAN, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.





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## Public Health Committee (1933-34).

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Chairman - - COUNCILLOR I. S. FOX.  
Deputy-Chairman - - - COUNCILLOR R. W. DUNN.

### Members:

ALDERMAN S. R. A. WALL.	COUNCILLOR J. W. MARRIOTT.
„ A. S. DUTTON.	„ J. M. SIMON.
„ F. D. PRICE.	„ S. R. FEARNALL.
„ PHYLLIS BROWN.	„ S. G. DUTTON.
COUNCILLOR J. S. STANFIELD.	„ KATE CLARKE.
„ J. C. DALTON.	„ E. E. ASHTON.
	„ A. CHARMLEY.

The Mayor (COUNCILLOR C. SCONCE) is an *ex-officio* Member  
of all Committees of the Council.

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## Staff of Public Health Department.

---

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent Corporation Hospitals, and Tuberculosis Officer J. W. Lobban, M.A.,  
M.D., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Deputy School Medical Officer, etc. J. F. Galloway, M.D.,  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
Succeeded by A. T. G. Thomas,  
M.D., D.P.H.

\*†Chief Sanitary Inspector, Food Inspector, Factory Acts Supervision, etc. S. H. Moore, F.S.I.A.,  
C.R.S.I.

\*†Assistant Sanitary Inspector, Food Inspector, etc. W. B. Calder, M.S.I.A.,  
C.R.S.I.

\*†District Sanitary Inspector ..... A. G. Watkin, Cert.S.I.B.

Assistant District Inspector ..... H. J. Hewitt, M.S.I.A.

\*Housing Inspector ..... M. G. H. Tresidder, C.R.S.I.

\*Abattoir Superintendent and Assistant Meat Inspector J. H. Withington, M.S.I.A.



## Public Health Officers—continued.

† Health Visitors, Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, Care of the Blind and Mental Deficiency and School Nurse and respective Clinics	C. V. Rochford, C.R.S.I. E. Brayne, S.R.N. L. Robson, C.R.S.I., G. T. A. E. Austin, S.R.N. Z. K. Wilkins, S.R.N. H.V.C.
Each one for a district in the City	
Chief Clerk .....	F. Thomas.
§ Assistant Clerks .....	T. R. Blythe, A.M.S.I.A. W. H. Wilkinson.
Assistant Clerk (Part time, School Medical) .....	A. H. S. Lewis.
Assistant Clerk and Laboratory Attendant (Part time, School Medical) ...	G. E. Jarvis.
Matron, Isolation Hospital .....	Miss L. Taylor, S.R.N.

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### Part Time Staff.

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Venereal Diseases Officers .....	A. B. Paul, M.A., M.B., B.C. A. W. Holgate, M.S., F.R.C.S.
Medical Officer, Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics	} Mary T. Place, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer, Ante-Natal Clinic ....	
School Dentist .....	C. L. Wade, L.D.S.
Public Vaccinator .....	} R. A. D. Pope, B.A., M.D.
Medical Officer, Public Assistance ...	
Consultant—Puerperal Fever, etc. ...	J. G. Wigley, F.R.C.S.
Public Analyst .....	Harold Lowe, M.Sc., F.I.C.
Veterinary Surgeon .....	H. H. Aldred, M.R.C.V.S.

---

† Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute, Meat and Food Inspection.

\* Certificate Liverpool University, Meat and Food Inspection.

§ Certificate Liverpool University, Sanitary Science.

‡ Certificate Central Midwives Board.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Public Health Committee.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the Health of the City for 1934.

The birth rate has increased since last year and the death rate shows a very slight decrease, but in spite of this the population of the City has decreased from 41,070 in 1933, to 40,800. This was the approximate population of the City in 1919.

The extent to which former Chester residents are now residing outside the City boundary will be appreciated. This continued migration presents a matter for serious consideration by the City Council.

The keen interest shown by all members of the Committee in the work and staff of the Health Department is much appreciated. I renew my thanks to the Corporation Officials in general for their helpful co-operation, and to my staff in particular, for their continued loyal support and service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. W. LOBBAN.

## City and County of the City of Chester.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres .....	2,862
Population (Registrar General) middle 1934 .....	40,800
Number of inhabited houses, end of 1934 from Rate Books .....	10,435
Rateable Value .....	£343,060
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .....	£1,344

Chester is chiefly a business centre for the neighbouring parts of the counties of Cheshire and Flintshire.

The chief forms of employment are shop assistants, railway workers, engineers and tobacco workers.

There has been no evidence of undue illness in any particular form of employment.

The following are extracts from the vital statistics of the year :—

The population again shows a decrease. There is a decrease of 270 from 1933, in spite of a slight decrease in the death rate and an increase in the birth rate. The decrease is due to the fact that former Chester residents live now outside the City boundary.

	Total.	M.	F	Rate per 1,000 Population.
Live Births { Legitimate	621	315	306	} Birth rate 16.0
{ Illegitimate	33	13	20	
Still births, rate per 1,000 total births .....				43.8
Death rate .....				13.06
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and parturition per 1,000 total births :—				
from sepsis .....				2.9
from other causes .....				4.3
				Total ... 7.2

Death rates of infants under 1 year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births .....	71.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births .....	69.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births .....	121.2
Death from Measles (all ages) .....	0.049
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	0.024
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .....	0.12

## THE BIRTH RATE.

The birth rate shows an increase of 1.6 from last year, being 16.0 compared with 14.4 in 1933.

The figures for the last five years are as follows :—

		England and Wales	Smaller Towns	Chester
1930	.....	16.3	16.2	16.3
1931	.....	15.8	15.6	16.1
1932	.....	15.3	15.4	16.5
1933	.....	14.4	14.5	14.4
1934	.....	14.8	15.0	16.0

## STILL BIRTHS.

There were 48 still births registered in the City during 1934, but only 30 of these belonged to Chester, giving a rate of 41.8 per 1,000 total births.

In 10 cases only the first child was lost. In 6 cases there had been previous miscarriage or still birth. The apparent cause in the other cases seems to have been, ill health of mother 6, accident to mother 2, accident of parturition 1, twin pregnancy 1.

In the remaining cases no cause was ascertained.

## INFANT DEATH RATE.

The infant death rate is 71.8, which is 4.1 greater than that of last year.

The chief causes of death were prematurity or congenital debility which accounted for 26 deaths, pneumonia for 7 deaths, diarrhoea for 4 deaths. The remainder were mainly under the heading of other defined diseases.

The position of Chester is shown in the following table :—

		England and Wales	Smaller Towns	Chester
1930	.....	60	55	72
1931	.....	66	62	68.5
1932	.....	65	58	53.9
1933	.....	64	56	67.7
1934	.....	59	53	71.8

## GENERAL DEATH RATE.

The deaths of Chester Residents numbered 533 during the year, 262 males and 271 females. The death rate is 13.06, which is 0.13 less than 1933.

Fifty-five per cent. of the deaths occurred in the age groups 65 years and over.

The chief cause of death was heart disease which accounted for 129 deaths compared with 109 in 1933.

Other circulatory diseases accounted for 39 deaths.

There was a decrease of 3 in the number of deaths due to cancer, 66 compared with 69 in 1933.

Deaths from respiratory diseases numbered 59 compared with 53 in 1933.

Cerebral Haemorrhage accounted for 40 deaths.

There were 26 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis compared with 38 in 1933, while other tuberculous diseases accounted for 5 deaths compared with 2 in 1933.

As regards infectious diseases the following were the deaths :— typhoid fever 1, measles 2, whooping cough 1, diphtheria 3, cerebro-spinal fever 2, influenza 3.

The comparison of Chester with the provisional figures as supplied by the Registrar General for England and Wales and smaller towns is set out below. The crude death rate of the City has been multiplied by the factor supplied by the Registrar General to make the figures comparable.

		England and Wales	Smaller Towns	Chester
1934	.....	11.8	11.3	13.71

Our death rates from infectious diseases are given in the following statement along with those for England and Wales and the smaller towns :—

	Enteric Fever	Measles	Scarlet Fev. r	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea under 2 years per 1,000 births
England and Wales	0.00	0.09	0.02	0.05	0.10	0.54	5.5
Smaller Towns ...	0.00	0.07	0.02	0.04	0.09	0.14	3.6
Chester ... ..	0.24	0.049	0.024	0.024	0.07	0.07	7.6

The prevalence of these diseases in Chester compared with England and Wales for the 52 weeks ending 29th December, 1934, is shown below :—

Notification of infectious diseases per 1,000 population.

	Enteric Fever	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia
England and Wales	0.03	3.76	1.70	0.06	0.15
Chester	0.02	4.5	1.00	0.04	0.19

The case rates for puerperal fever and puerperal pyrexia are better expressed in relation to the births registered rather than to the population. When calculated on the basis per 1,000 total births the rates are :—

	Puerperal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia
England and Wales	4.0	9.6
Chester	2.9	11.6

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE CITY.

### 1.—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.—(see front page).

### 2.—(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Municipality has its own laboratory in which suspected material is examined sent by practitioners in the district, or arising in the work of the infectious disease hospital or the municipal clinics. The work done in the municipal laboratory includes the examination of throat and nose swabs for detection of the diphtheria bacillus, or haemolytic streptococci, smears for the gonococcus, sputum for the tubercle bacillus or other organisms, blood counts or the examination of blood for the Widal reaction in suspected typhoid or the paratyphoid fevers, the examination of urine for various organisms, or for routine examination for the presence of sugar, albumen or blood.

In addition, samples of milk are examined bacteriologically every week, and those samples showing counts over the standard are the subject of advice or warning to the vendor or producer. In this way 140 or 150 milk samples are examined each year.

Fortnightly bacteriological examinations of the water supply are also made, each individual filter bed, the mixed waters, water from a consumer's tap, and from the River being examined.

A chemical examination of the water is made each month.

The following is a statement of the work done during the year :—

### LABORATORY WORK.

Material.	Examined for	Positive.	Negative.	TOTAL.
Sputum ...	Tubercle bacillus ...	106	131	237
Swabs, Nose or Throat	Diphtheria bacillus ...	47	808	855
„ Eye ...	Gonococcus ...	—	5	5
„ Vaginal ...	Gonococcus ...	1	6	7
„ Throat ...	Vincent's Angina ...	—	1	1
„ from Abscess	Organisms ...	—	1	1
„ Throat ...	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2	24	26
Pus, ...	Organisms ...	2	1	3
Urine ...	General ...	°3	†1	4
„ ...	Paratyphoid bacillus ...	—	—	—
Fæces ...	Paratyphoid bacillus ...	—	3	3
Blood ...	Widal reaction ...	—	5	5
„ ...	Culture ...	2	1	3
Smears ...	Gonococcus ...	5	7	12
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid ...	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2	2	4
„ ...	Tubercle bacillus ...	—	1	1
Pleural Fluid ...	„ ...	—	1	1
Totals ...		170	998	1168

° Abnormal.

† Normal.



## (b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Two ambulances are provided by the Town for general purposes and are kept at the Fire Station where a driver is always available. For infectious diseases, two ambulances are kept at the Fever Hospital, and also a van for the removal of infected bedding. The ambulance driver resides at the Hospital.

The ambulance facilities seem adequate for the district.

## (c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

(1) The District Nursing Association has nurses employed in the nursing of patients in their homes. A large amount of valuable and highly appreciated work is done. Patients are referred to the Association by the Health Department as occasion arises.

(2) At times of epidemic sickness the Association helps in the nursing of such illnesses as measles and whooping cough, and for this service a fee of £50 per annum is paid by the Education Authority.

## (d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The following clinics are administered by the Local Authority :—

	Situation.	Accommodation.
1. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic	Princess Street ...	Waiting room, weighing room, consulting room.
2. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic	Curzon St., Saltney	Waiting and weighing room, consulting room.
3. Ante-Natal Clinic ... ..	Princess Street ...	Waiting room, consulting room.
4. School Clinic (inspection) ...	„	„
5. School Clinic (treatment) ...	„	„
6. Ultra Violet Ray Clinic ...	„	„
7. Tuberculosis Clinic ...	St. John Street ...	Waiting room, consulting room.
8. Venereal Disease Centre ... (Joint)	Chester Royal Infirmary	Waiting room, treatment room, ablution room.
Under the auspices of the Cheshire Branch of the Red Cross Society and Society of St. John of Jerusalem a local committee administers the		
9. Orthopædic after care Clinic	St. John Street ...	Waiting room and consulting room.

*Maternity and Child Welfare.*

(1) Princess Street Clinic.—Two sessions are held weekly under the charge of a medical practitioner.

The babies and older children are regularly weighed and records of progress kept. When necessary, they are seen by the medical officer who advises the parents.

Two health visitors attend each session and advise the mothers on various health matters.

The following attendances were made during the year :—

(a) by children under one year of age .....	2440
(b) by children between the ages of one and five years ...	3340
(c) by mothers , .....	4974

(2) Saltney Clinic.—During the year an auxiliary clinic was opened in Saltney, in April, to serve the growing housing estate of the Corporation.

At present the Corporation rents a church hall but consideration will have to be given to the erection of a permanent clinic in the centre of the Housing Estate.

This Clinic is under the same medical officer as the Princess Street Clinic.

The following attendances were made during the year.—

(a) by children under one year of age .....	407
(b) by children between the ages of one and five years ...	451
(c) by mothers .....	737

The following work was done by the medical officer of these clinics :—

	Princess St.	Saltney
First visits of infants .....	276	62
Subsequent visits .....	936	199
Children (1—5 years) first visits .....	82	79
Subsequent visits .....	1330	228
Mothers (post natal consultations) ...	80	16

The attendances have been well maintained during the year and the interest of the mothers sustained.

(3) The Ante-natal Clinic meets once a week under the charge of the same medical officer as the child welfare clinics. Expectant mothers are examined and advised, and the midwife or doctor interested in the case is written to if not present. During the year the medical officer has seen 161 expectant mothers who have paid 387 visits. This represents an increase of 7 per cent. over last year and is 19.5 per cent. of total notified births.

In addition, 10 mothers visited for diagnosis and were found to be non-expectant.

Cases where the home circumstances were unsuitable as well as those cases requiring special treatment were sent to hospital.

In addition to this municipal ante-natal centre, ante-natal clinics are held at the Maternity Hospital and at the City Hospital.

Attendances at these clinics are detailed below :—

Maternity Hospital—

Number of mothers seen .....	132
Number of attendances .....	773

City Hospital—

Number of mothers seen .....	30
Number of attendances .....	92

(4) The School Clinic (Inspection) meets every school-day and is in charge of the Deputy School Medical Officer.

(5) The School Clinic (Treatment) meets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and is in the charge of the same medical officer.



## (6) Ultra-Violet Ray Clinic.

Total number attending during the year :—

Children under school age .....	17
Children of school age .....	17
Adults .....	0
Total number of attendances made .....	588
Average number of attendances of each patient .....	17.2

Summary of conditions under school age :—

Skin .....	1
Debility .....	5
Rickets .....	1
Marasmus .....	2
Bronchitis .....	5
Asthma .....	1
Neck glands (non T.B.) .....	1
Anaemia .....	1

Summary of conditions of school children :

Neck glands (non T.B.) .....	3
Tuberculous peritonitis .....	3
Bronchitis .....	5
Debility .....	6

The results of treatment have been satisfactory. In early cases of neck glands treatment was found to be particularly satisfactory. Cases of debility have responded well especially when instructions as to suitable dietary have been carried out by the parents.

## (7) Tuberculosis Clinic meets on Mondays and Thursdays at 11 o'clock and on Thursday evenings at 6 p.m.

The number of patients on the Dispensary Register at the end of the year was .....

end of the year was .....	237
Number of new cases examined .....	81
Number of contacts examined .....	21
Number of attendances at the Dispensary .....	224
Number of attendances at Cheshire Joint Sanatorium for refills in artificial pneumothorax .....	100
Number of visits of Tuberculosis Officers to homes .....	36
Number of " T.B. Plus " cases on the Register .....	89
Number of visits of nurses to tuberculous persons (including those under the Tuberculosis Regulations) .....	1022
Number of X-Ray examinations made .....	33

The question of providing a new Health Centre to provide accommodation for school medical services, maternity and child welfare and ante-natal activities and tuberculosis services arose during the latter part of the year, and a special sub-committee of representatives from the Public Health Committee and Education Committee have this matter under consideration.

(8) Venereal Disease Centre.—As from July 2nd, 1934, an extra session was inaugurated.

The following sessions are now held :—

Monday, 5-7 p.m. (female).

Wednesday, 5-7 p.m. (male).

Thursday 5-7 p.m. (female).

Saturday, 12-2 p.m. (male).

The Clinic is open all day for irrigations, and trained assistants are in attendance. The clinic is a joint one for Chester and the counties of Cheshire and Flintshire.

The following is a table of the work done in 1934 :—

	Syphilis.		Gonorrhoea		Conditions other than Venereal.		Total.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Number of Cases at beginning of year	49	28	123	55	—	2	172	85
Number attending for first time 1934 ...	31	25	106	29	11	15	148	69
Ceased to attend or transferred to other centres ... ..	11	11	53	18	—	—	64	29
Discharged ... ..	1	7	64	9	11	14	76	30
Number under treatment at end of year ... ..	69	35	112	57	—	3	181	95

The following is the number of Chester patients attending for the first time during the year for the last five years :—

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934
Syphilis .....	16	19	22	13	15
Soft Chancre .....	1	—	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea .....	30	27	53	70	47
Conditions other than venereal	10	4	7	9	10

The number of attendances made by Chester patients was 3,911, and the number of in-patient days was 272.

(9) The Orthopaedic After-Care Clinic meets once a week when the cases are seen by the specialist staff of the Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital. During the year 144 cases were under treatment and they made 1,376 attendances. The distribution of the cases was as follows :—

Arthritis .....	1
Congenital Deformities .....	21
Claw Foot .....	2
Flat Foot .....	15
Hallux Valgus .....	1
Injuries .....	9
Knock Knees .....	8
Osteomyelitis .....	2
Poliomyelitis .....	12
Rickets .....	23
Round back .....	—
Scoliosis .....	4
Spastic diplegia .....	—
Spastic hemiplegia .....	4

Spastic monoplegia .....	1
Spastic paraplegia .....	1
Surgical tuberculosis .....	22
Surgical tuberculosis (doubtful) .....	3
Torticollis .....	—
Others .....	17

	On Books 1/1/34	Admitted during 1934	No. Treated during 1934	Discharged during 1934	On Books 31/12/34	Attendances during 1934
Under 5 years ...	26	14	40	14	26	432
5—16 years ...	35	14	49	12	37	440
16 and over years ...	16	14	30	10	11	194
Tubercular Cases (all ages)	20	5	25	4	19	310
Totals ...	97	47	144	40	93	1376

In addition 2 cases were examined and no treatment found necessary.

I have to thank most cordially once again, the Red Cross Society and the Society of St. John of Jerusalem whose enthusiasm and help combine to make the clinic the success it is.

During 1934 there were 18 Chester patients sent by the Education Committee, Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and Tuberculosis Officer to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry. These patients spent 947 in-patient days in hospital. The staff of this hospital co-operate with the Local Authority in the most helpful manner. In addition, 5 cases remained from 1933 in hospital and spent 1,447 in-patient days in hospital.

#### (e) HOSPITALS.

Name.	Situation.	Purpose.	No. of Available Beds.	Pro- portion used by City Residents.	Management
Chester Royal Infirmary	City ...	General ...	211	$\frac{1}{3}$	Voluntary Agency
City Hospital	... City Boundary	General ...	336	$\frac{5}{6}$	Local Authority
Maternity Hospital...	Centre of City...	Maternity ...	8	$\frac{5}{9}$	Voluntary Agency
Cheshire Joint Sanatorium	Market Drayton	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	250	$\frac{1}{30}$	Joint Committee
Shropshire Ortho- paedic Hospital	Gobowen ...	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis and other crippling con- ditions	300 approx.	$\frac{1}{16}$	Voluntary Agency
Isolation Hospital ...	1 mile from City	Infectious Diseases	64	$\frac{5}{6}$	Local Authority
Tuberculosis Pavilion, Sealand	1 mile from City	Advanced Tuberculosis and Non- Pulmonary Children	26	$\frac{5}{6}$	Local Authority
Smallpox Hospital ...	1 mile from City	Smallpox ...	10	—	Local Authority

The location and amount of bed accommodation for various conditions is given where possible in the following table:—

			Chester Royal Infirmry.	City Hospital.	Chester Maternity Hospital.	Cheshire Joint Sanatorium	Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital.	Isolation Hospital Chester.
General Medical	...	M	14	46	—	—	—	—
"	...	F	14	31	—	—	—	—
General Surgical	...	M	57	53	—	—	—	—
"	...	F	33	46	—	—	—	—
Gynaecological	...	...	15	—	—	—	—	—
Children	...	...	26	32	—	—	—	—
Maternity	...	...	—	24	8	—	—	—
Venereal Diseases	...	M	4	—	—	—	—	—
"	...	F	4	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Pulmon.	...	—	—	—	—	8*	—	18
" Non-Pulmon.	...	—	—	—	—	—	†	8
Chronic Sick	...	M	—	38	—	—	—	—
"	...	F	—	38	—	—	—	—
Mental Defective	...	...	—	40	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic	...	...	—	—	—	—	†	—
Ear, Nose and Throat	...	M	5	—	—	—	—	—
"	...	F	5	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmic	...	M	6	—	—	—	—	—
"	...	F	6	—	—	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	64
Private Wards	...	...	22	—	—	—	—	—

\* Beds used by Chester Local Authority. † Beds given as required

#### CHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY.

The Royal Infirmary is fully staffed, with special departments in radiology, nose and throat, ophthalmology and gynaecology, and also for the treatment of cancer by radium. There are 211 beds. During the year the Psychiatric Clinic met weekly on Thursdays at 3 p.m. Up to the end of the year 39 patients had attended, 14 of these being from Chester. The total number of attendances was 234, of which the Chester patients made 91. Beds required by the Clinic can be had by arrangement with the Honorary Medical Staff.

#### THE CITY HOSPITAL (FORMERLY ST. JAMES'S HOSPITAL).

This hospital is under the control of the Public Assistance Committee. It has been decided that the hospital will be transferred to the Public Health Committee on January 1st, 1937. During the year the re-arrangement of staffing was completed.

The Medical Officer of Health was appointed medical superintendent. A Senior Resident Medical Officer and a Junior Resident Medical Officer were appointed.

Two consulting surgeons and a consulting radiologist were added to the staff.

The medical staff consists of medical superintendent, two resident medical officers, two consulting surgeons, a consulting radiologist, a consulting gynaecologist and a visiting dental surgeon.

Various structural alterations have been made in various directions with a view to improving the efficiency of the hospital. The equipment, particularly that of the operating theatre and sterilising room, is receiving special attention.

### ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

There are 64 beds for infectious diseases in four blocks of buildings, with 10 wards, and 18 beds for pulmonary tuberculosis (10 male and 8 female) and 8 beds for non-pulmonary tuberculosis in children.

There is also a discharge block and an efficient and up-to-date laundry and disinfecting station and a mortuary.

The staffing is efficient and comprises:—Matron, four Sisters, five staff nurses and 14 probationers with an adequate domestic and laundry staff, ambulance driver and engineer.

Four hundred and twenty-three patients were admitted during the year, 302 being City cases and 121 from neighbouring authorities. The number shows an increase of 76 on that of 1933.

*Scarlet Fever*.—260 cases of scarlet fever were admitted during the year compared with 246 in 1933. Of these cases 173 belonged to the City compared with 191 in 1933.

It was decided to continue the treatment by the injection of anti scarlatinal serum in view of the excellent results in 1933. During 1934 every case of scarlet fever was treated in this way.

There were two deaths from scarlet fever during the year, one City and one from another authority.

Both cases were complicated with severe nephritis.

*Diphtheria*.—An increase in the number of cases of diphtheria treated in hospital has been noted—60 cases compared with 15 in 1933, which was the lowest number on record. Of the 60 cases, 42 were from the City of Chester.

There was a widespread epidemic in England generally towards the latter quarter of the year and particularly in the north of England, but Chester was fortunate in escaping a serious epidemic.

There were four deaths due to diphtheria—three City and one from another authority.

There has been noticed during the year a tendency for diphtheria cases to assume a more serious and toxic form approaching the gravis type described by many authorities during the last year or two.

*Measles*.—14 cases were admitted during the year—13 City and 1 outside authority.

There was one death—a City case complicated with bronchopneumonia.



*Whooping Cough.*—Seven City cases were admitted during the year and there were no deaths.

*Typhoid Fever.*—One case of typhoid fever was admitted during the year from an outside authority and died in hospital.

Nine cases were admitted during the year and were re-diagnosed as cases of tonsilitis, six were from neighbouring authorities and three from Chester.

*Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.*—Three City cases were admitted during the year and two of the cases died—the remaining case made a good recovery.

*Puerperal Fever.*—Three City cases were admitted during the year. Two of the cases made a complete recovery and the third died.

The remaining cases consisted of tubercular meningitis 1, chicken pox 1, miliary tuberculosis 1, mumps 1, sub-arachroid haemorrhage 1, rheumatic fever 1, poliomyelitis 1, cellulitis and pharyngitis 1, and broncho-pneumonia 2.

The following table gives details of the admissions:—

1934.	Tuber- culous Disease.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Typhoid and Para Typhoid Fever.	Puer- peral Fever and Pyrexia.	Whoop- ing Cough.	Measles	Other Con- ditions.	Total.
Chester ...	49	173	42	...	3	7	13	15	302
County of Cheshire	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Tarvin and Malpas	...	28	8	1	...	...	...	2	39
Hoole ...	...	22	5	...	...	...	...	...	27
Military ...	...	5	...	...	...	..	...	1	6
Other Authorities	...	32	5	...	...	...	1	4	42
Total ...	56	260	60	1	3	7	14	22	423

The following is the number of deaths with details of the cause:—

	City	Other Authorities
Tubercular Meningitis .....	—	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	8	1
Puerperal Fever .....	1	—
Diphtheria .....	3	1
Measles and broncho pneumonia .....	1	—
Broncho pneumonia .....	2	—
Scarlet Fever .....	1	1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis .....	2	—
Cellulitis and Pharyngitis .....	1	—
Sub-arachroid haemorrhage .....	1	—
Typhoid Fever .....	—	1
Totals ...	20	5

During the year four bathrooms were built in Blocks 2 and 3, and have proved very useful.

2.

## (i.) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1929.

No further step has been taken to make a declaration under this Act.

## (ii.) POOR LAW MEDICAL OUT-RELIEF.

The work has been carried on as formerly by a part-time district medical officer.

## (iii.) INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR THE CARE OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

As in previous years difficulty has been experienced in dealing with male mental defectives. The City has no accommodation set aside for male cases. This need is not confined to Chester as institutions in various parts of the country have long waiting lists for male cases. Another difficulty is that only the very high grade cases are accepted by institutions, and it is well-nigh impossible to place low grade cases, or cases with epilepsy in addition to the mental defect. As regards female cases the situation is somewhat better.

The City has 6 beds in the Cranage Institution for high grade females. In addition, beds may be obtained in the City Hospital, which is licensed for female defectives.

It is hoped that in the near future extra accommodation will be available at Cranage for both sexes and for low grade cases particularly.

3.

## (i.) MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

The work of the maternity unit in the City Hospital has increased. There were 77 cases delivered in 1934.

One case of puerperal fever occurred during the year.

There were two maternal deaths, one due to severe ante partum haemorrhage. This patient arrived at the hospital in a moribund condition and died a few hours after admission.

The second was due to puerperal sepsis. She was confined outside and on admission was found to have acute peritonitis and septic endometritis.

There were four stillbirths and four infant deaths within 10 days of birth, the latter were due to prematurity in each case.

Beds are available for mothers prior to confinement.

The Chester Maternity Hospital has 8 beds. During 1934 this hospital admitted 202 cases compared with 177 in 1933.

The attention of the hospital staff has been repeatedly drawn to the large number of admissions which is out of proportion to the number of beds available. During the latter part of the year the hospital was found overcrowded to a serious extent. The Committee of Management was informed that this must cease and an undertaking was given by the Committee that the number of bookings would be strictly limited. During 1935 this must be adhered to and the number of patients admitted must show a decrease from the present year's figures.

No case of puerperal fever occurred, but two cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified. There was one maternal death during the year—a case of eclampsia (undelivered).

There were 9 stillbirths and 5 deaths in infants within 10 days of birth. The cause of death in the latter were :—2 cerebral haemorrhage, 1 prematurity, 1 pneumonia, 1 toxæmic convulsions.

The work of the maternity and child welfare clinics and ante-natal clinic has been discussed earlier in the report.

### MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Enquiry is made into the circumstances of all cases of puerperal fever or pyrexia including a statement from the doctor and nurse attending. The nurse in attendance is limited to the case until recovery or removal to hospital, when she and her instruments are disinfected before returning to duty.

### MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER, 1918.

Milk has been supplied free to 2,389 applicants during the year, 113 more than in 1933. 185 of these were first applications.

During the year a comprehensive system of checking the statements of applicants as to their means was continued with satisfactory results.

In addition, mothers and children in receipt of milk have to attend the Infant Welfare Centre regularly unless special circumstances are present.

### DENTAL TREATMENT.

During the year the scheme for dental treatment for nursing and expectant mothers was continued. The treatment is either free or subject to part payment according to the means of the family.

Six cases were dealt with during the year.

### MIDWIVES.

There are 21 midwives practising in the City, five of which work under the auspices of the Benevolent Institution and Maternity Home. All the midwives are certified and none are subsidised by the Local Authority. Their homes are visited quarterly, and registers, ante-natal records and home conditions examined by the senior health visitor. All midwives are seen, with their bags, registers and notes, once a year by the Medical Officer and on special occasions as necessary.

Under the provisions of the Midwives Act, the Local Authority paid the whole or part of the doctor's fee when called in by a midwife in 98 cases, an increase of 20 from last year.

Artificial Feeding.—The notification of the adoption of artificial feeding is very badly carried out, there having been only 24 such notifications received during the year.

Total number of births notified .....	840
(of these 16 were notified late; 3 by doctors and 13 by midwives).	
Cases attended and delivered by doctors .....	160
Cases attended and delivered by midwives .....	636
Number of still births .....	48
(30 cases belonged to Chester).	



Of the 636 births attended by midwives, in 112 cases some condition arose requiring the calling in of medical help either for the mother or infant. This is an increase of 4 from last year.

The reasons for requiring help were as follows:—

Feebleness of child .....	14
Prolonged labour or malpresentation .....	12
Complications before labour .....	20
Complications during labour .....	7
Complications after labour .....	6
Rise of temperature .....	17
Discharge from the eyes .....	9
Deformity of infant .....	6
Lacerated perinaeum .....	16
Abortion .....	1
Prematurity .....	4

During the year the City Council approved of a scheme for compensation to midwives whose cases after reference by them to the City Ante-natal Clinic were subsequently admitted to hospital for confinement.

## (ii.) INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS OR CHILDREN.

The Maternity Hospital and City Hospital are open to receive both married and unmarried expectant mothers. The City Hospital has accommodation for dealing with homeless children under a certain age. In addition, there is a Children's Home, Wrexham Road, where older children can be accommodated.

During the year marasmic and ailing babies were admitted to the Children's Department at the City Hospital.

## (iii.) HEALTH VISITORS.

The number of Health Visitors remains as before—five. They act as school nurses in addition.

During the latter quarter of the year illness in two of the Health Visitors reduced the number of visits which otherwise would have been paid.

The Health Visitors made the following visits:—

Primary birth visits .....	609
Return visits .....	3,168
Visits to children (1—5 years) .....	8,641
Visits to expectant mothers .....	894
Other visits .....	1,524
Visits to midwives .....	63

The visits to cases of tuberculosis are shown later in the report.

(iv.) INFANT LIFE PROTECTION (CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1932).

This Act is administered by the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee of the Public Health Committee.

There was a successful prosecution during the year. In this case a child was being kept in an unsatisfactory home and the court made an order for the removal to a place of safety.

The register is kept in the office of the Medical Officer of Health to whom all notifications are sent.

(v.) ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

As in former years this is carried out at the Orthopaedic After-care Clinic, and at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.

Fuller details of this work will be found elsewhere in the report.

4. MATERNITY HOMES.

There are six maternity homes in Chester, five of which are nursing homes and the sixth is the Chester Maternity Hospital. These have been visited during the year and the registers examined. During the year two of the homes changed ownership.

There have been no new applications and no cancellations.

**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

I. WATER.

Chester continues to have an abundant supply of water of good quality. Since the introduction of modern methods of purification the standard of purity obtained has been remarkably good. The standard taken is the absence of typical bacillus coli from 100 c.c. of water. On one occasion only during the year was typical bacillus coli found in the pure water reservoir at the Waterworks, whilst in no case was its presence observed in the water as supplied to the consumer.

The water is examined chemically every month and has given satisfactory results; these are as follows:—

# CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS OF CITY WATER SUPPLY, 1934.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Colour ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Opacity ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Reaction ...	Alk.	Alk.	Alk.	Alk.	Alk.	Alk.	Alk.	Alk.	Alk.	Alk.	Alk.	Alk.
Chlorides as Cl. ...	1.6	1.75	1.9	2.3	2.1	1.9	3.8	3.6	2.1	1.5	1.8	1.6
Free Ammonia as $\text{NH}_3$ ...	.0013	.0006	.00066	.0006	.00066	.00066	.00132	.00066	.00066	.002	.00066	.00106
Albuminoid Ammonia as $\text{NH}_3$ ...	.0075	.0035	.0065	.0012	.0015	.0055	.0025	.0031	.0042	.0027	.0015	.0016
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37°C ...	0.2	0.05	0.3	0.24	0.2	0.16	0.18	0.15	0.2	0.1	0.06	0.2
Hardness—Temporary ...	4.0	3.4	2.2	2.1	2.4	8.4	1.5	7.2	3.7	1.3	3.1	4.8
Hardness—Permanent ...	6.7	7.6	5.8	7.0	7.1	4.6	8.0	4.9	7.3	5.7	6.1	2.05
Hardness—Total ...	10.7	11.0	8.0	9.1	9.5	13.0	9.5	12.1	11.0	7.0	9.2	6.85

## ii. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the spring and early summer complaints were received of an offensive smell proceeding from the sewage works.

The City Engineer put into operation immediately a scheme for sludge digestion which has proved satisfactory.

Early next year it is anticipated that a chlorinating plant for the chlorination of the crude sewage will be installed.

It is confidently expected that these two methods will effectively combat this trouble.

A chlorinating plant was installed in 1934 at the Bumpers Lane Sewage Works and was successful in preventing disagreeable odours.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The River Dec, the Shropshire Union Canal and Finchett's Brook pass through the City. Few complaints have been received this year about the state of the canal.

The Joint River Board for the Dee has been constituted and it is hoped that next year will see it in full working order.

## 3. (1) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are about 40 pail closets in the City which, owing to their situation in relation to the sewer, cannot be converted into water closets, the remainder of the closet accommodation is on the water carriage system. There were no conversions during the year.

## (2) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Public Cleansing Department is supervised by the City Engineer. In the centre of the City refuse is removed daily and in Courts about three times a week. Refuse is deposited in ashes bins which are discharged into special covered vehicles for removal to tip. Tipping is carried out in a systematic manner and formed into filter beds for the treatment of sewage effluent. This method continues to give very satisfactory results.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a classified statement of the work done in the Sanitary Department during the year :—

Complaints in respect of nuisances .....	232
Visits in respect of nuisances .....	1195
Rooms disinfected after infectious diseases .....	275
Rooms disinfected for other purposes .....	136
Investigations into Infectious Diseases .....	316
Matters referred to City Surveyor .....	40
Tests applied to drains .....	364

### Number of premises—

drains found defective .....	166
drains repaired .....	107
insufficient drainage .....	5
drainage systems re-constructed .....	89

Ashpits abolished .....	3
Ashbins provided .....	477
Inspection in Courts .....	173
Inspection of Schools .....	52
Inspection of Stables, etc. ....	47
Inspections of Canal Boats .....	101
Inspections of Factories and Workshops .....	175
Inspections of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops .....	243
Inspections of Slaughterhouses .....	1547
Inspections of Butchers Shops .....	1208
Inspections of Fishmongers Shops .....	315
Inspections of other food shops .....	669
Inspections of Offensive Trade Premises .....	7
Smoke observations .....	14
House to House District Inspections .....	413
Visits to Common Lodging Houses .....	21
Dwellings, Inspections and Re-inspections .....	4963
Visits in respect of Rat Nuisances .....	1336
Visits to Licensed Premises .....	122

The following notices were served for the abatement of nuisances :—

Intimation .....	331
Statutory .....	37

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

All nuisances were abated without the institution of legal proceedings.

### SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS SUBJECT TO CONTROL BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

No special action was necessary in regard to houses let in lodgings, tents, vans or sheds.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The number of Common Lodging Houses on the Register is four, the same as last year.

The Registration was transferred to a new keeper in respect of Nos. 1 and 3, Castle Street.

The accommodation provides for 145 men.

There is no Common Lodging House for women in the City.

The premises have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

Twenty-one inspections have been made.

## RAG FLOCK ACT.

No samples were taken during the year as the two firms dealing in this material purchase their stock from the same manufacturer, as in previous years, and receive a warranty with each consignment.

## WHOLESALE DEALERS IN MARGARINE AND MARGARINE CHEESE.

No change has taken place in the names of the registered dealers.

## FRIED FISH SHOPS.

One shop has been closed and a new business established during the year leaving 34 premises in which this trade is carried on.

The premises are kept in a satisfactory condition.

## HOMEWORKERS.

The employers lists of homeworkers contained the names and addresses of fourteen persons. Three of the employees resided in other districts and the necessary information was forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health for the area in which they worked. Ten of the homeworkers are engaged in tailoring and four in boot repairing.

The homes, which are regularly visited by Health Visitors, are kept in a satisfactory condition.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

No change has taken place in the public conveniences during the year. They have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

## LICENSED VICTUALLERS PREMISES.

One hundred and twenty-two visits were paid to licensed premises in the supervision of sanitary works.



Fifteen of the licensed houses have constructed separate water closet accommodation for the sexes and three have re-arranged the existing compartments and thus provided the necessary reserved conveniences.

There now remain nineteen premises without separate W.C. accommodation. In several instances the matter is receiving the attention of the owners whilst in other cases, the trade being mainly local, the demand for separate accommodation is not urgent. On the whole the sanitary accommodation and lavatories are satisfactory.

Hot water has also been supplied over many bar sinks by the installation of either gas or electric water heaters.

### CANAL BOATS ACTS, 1877—1884.

No change has taken place in the Register of Canal Boats and the number of boats remain the same as last year, i.e., 264. 101 boats were inspected in three of which contraventions were found existing. The contraventions were, absence of certificate, painting overdue and dilapidation. After service of notices the contraventions were made good.

The cabin accommodation in the boats was sufficient for 351 persons, but there were only 266 persons occupying them at the time of inspection. The occupants consisted of 115 male adults, 86 female adults, 40 children of school age and 25 children under school age.

Particulars in respect of the registration of the canal boats and inspection work done under the Acts are set out in the following schedule.

#### SCHEDULE.

Number of Boats added to Register in 1934 .....	Nil
Number of re-registered owing to Structural Alterations .....	Nil
Number re-registered owing to other reasons .....	Nil
Total Number registered to 31st December, 1934 .....	264
Total Number of Registrations Cancelled .....	Nil
Actual Number of Boats on Register at 31st December, 1934 .....	264
Number of Boats Inspected in 1934 .....	101
Number of Boats conforming to the Acts and Regulations .....	98
Number of Boats infringing the Acts and Regulations .....	3
Total Number for which the Cabins were registered .....	351
Total Number occupying the Cabins .....	266

#### Details of Occupation :—

Male Adults .....	115
Female Adults .....	86
Children of School Age .....	40
Children under School Age .....	25

#### Details showing Numbers Infringing in respect to :—

— Registration .....	—
— Notification of Change of Master .....	—
1 Absence of Certificate .....	1
— Certificate not Identifying Owner with Boat .....	—
— Marking .....	—

—	Overcrowding .....	—
—	Partition (Registration 8, b. ii.) .....	—
—	Females over 12 Improperly Occupying .....	—
—	Cleanliness .....	—
1	Painting .....	1
—	Ventilation .....	—
1	Dilapidation .....	1
—	Removal of Bilge Water .....	—
—	Without Pump .....	—
—	Refusal of Admittance to Inspector .....	—
—	No proper Water Vessel .....	—
—	Without requisite Double Bulkheads .....	—
—	Non-notification of Infectious Disease .....	—
—	Number of Boats detained for Cleansing (not for I/D.) ...	—
<hr/>		<hr/>
3	Total Cases met with.	Total Cases Remedied 3
<hr/>		<hr/>

Number of Legal Proceedings taken .....	Nil
Number of printed Notice Forms issued .....	3
Number of Notices attended to .....	3
Number still corresponding about .....	Nil

### RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The City Council employs a whole time Rat Catcher whose services are given to the public free of charge.

On receipt of complaints the Rat Catcher visits the premises and takes such action as may be necessary to exterminate the pests. In dwelling places it is invariably found that the rats have made their entry through defective drains; in such cases the drains are put in a good state of repair and usually the result is satisfactory.

During the year 1,336 visits were made by the Rat Catcher and 219 visits by the District Sanitary Inspectors.

The National Rat Week Campaign took place from the 5th to the 10th November, and the same methods were adopted which were found so successful during previous years. The special staff engaged during Rat Week visited the refuse tip, ditches and such premises as were known to be liable to infestation, in addition to the public sewers, and bait was laid. Poison gas was used at the tip and two hundred-weights of poison bait were laid throughout the City. Revisits proved the bait had been freely taken and we anticipate satisfactory results. The public were invited through the press to assist in the work and 15 applications were made for poison bait, and 5 for the loan of traps, these were supplied free of charge.



The following schedule sets out the visits made by the Rat Catcher and the results of the action taken so far as they are known :—

Month 1934.				Method.		Rats Caught
				Poison	Traps.	
January ...	...	...	131	20	72	82 (7 mice incld.)
February...	...	...	119	16	77	77
March ...	...	...	129	20	77	112 (29 mice incld.)
April ...	...	...	116	18	56	81
May ...	...	...	125	28	71	131 (3 mice incld.)
June ...	...	...	113	51	26	110 (15 mice incld.)
July ...	...	...	117	26	72	108 (31 mice incld.)
August ...	...	...	62	18	30	91 (12 mice incld.)
September	...	...	116	28	66	98 (16 mice incld.)
October ...	...	...	136	19	93	151 (51 mice incld.)
November	...	...	85	16	44	130 (36 mice incld.)
December	...	...	87	20	39	99
<b>TOTAL</b>	...	...	1336	280	723	1270 (200 mice incld.)

### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

There was no special cause for action in respect of Smoke Nuisances. Fourteen observations were taken and in three instances the attention of the stoker was called to neglect in stoking.

A new Committee has been formed to be known as the " West Lancashire and Cheshire Regional Smoke Abatement Committee " and Chester is one of the constituent authorities. The Area extends from Preston in the North to Chester in the South, and nearly every Local Authority in that Area is associated with the Committee. The function of the Committee is to be advisory and to promote schemes with the object of producing an atmosphere so far as possible free from smoke and other deleterious matter.

### SCHOOLS.

As a result of a survey in 1933 of all schools in the City a considerable amount of sanitary work has been done during 1934.

This work included the construction of new range of water closets and the provision of modern basins and flushing apparatus at one school. At another school the waterclosets were provided with modern fittings, and additional wash-hand basins and heating and ventilation of the cloakrooms were also added.

In several other schools minor amendments have been made. In one case, however, nothing had been done to improve the sanitary arrangements at the year end, but it is hoped that the work at this school will be completed during 1935.

## HOUSING.

The preparatory work for taking action in respect of the insanitary area referred to in the 1933 Annual Report, page 38, was further advanced and on the 19th December, 1934, the City Council resolved, upon consideration of official representations, in pursuance of the Housing Act, 1930, to declare the following areas to be Clearance Areas in accordance with the provisions of the Act :—

- (a) (Princess Street) Clearance Area, 1934.
- (b) (Crook Street) Clearance Area, 1934.
- (c) (Goss Street) Clearance Area, 1934.

The City Council on the same date made Compulsory Purchase Orders in respect of parts of the land in Princess Street Clearance Area, 1934, and Crook Street Clearance Area, 1934, and the land in Goss Street Clearance Area, 1934.

The City Council also declared Clearance Orders in respect of parts of Princess Street and Crook Street Clearance Areas to secure the clearance of such parts by ordering the demolition of the buildings.

The necessary notices were being prepared at the close of the year and it is anticipated that the Minister of Health will order a Public Inquiry to be held at an early date in respect of each area.

The surveying of the site and individual houses was necessarily exacting in character and added considerably to the duties of all members of the Staff.

The total area of the three areas exceeded five acres in extent. In the first place it was found necessary to survey the whole area and to produce new maps, each individual house had to be inspected and condition of the property recorded. It was also found desirable to have sketches of the site occupied by each individual house and plans of the internal arrangements of rooms and sanitary fittings.

The total number of premises in the surveyed area was :—

Occupied Dwelling-houses .....	222
Occupied Dwelling-houses and shops .....	14
Occupied Dwelling-houses and Licensed premises .....	3
Dwelling-houses and shops used for business purposes only .....	6
Derelict Dwelling-houses .....	3
Other buildings .....	23
	<hr/>
Total ...	271

Apart from defects in the sanitation of the dwelling-houses, they are badly arranged, abutting on to narrow streets and the majority without secondary access passages.

The whole area is congested being equal to approximately 45 houses to the acre excluding other buildings. Division of the area into sections proves congestion considerably in excess of 45 dwelling-houses to the acre one section being so congested as to be equal to 116.7 houses to the acre. This extreme congestion affected 16 dwelling-houses. In comparison, the Lache Estate possesses 15 houses to the acre.

The number of people residing in the area is 1,135, and the Council have undertaken to re-house them, for which purpose they will build 228 houses.

In the execution of the work we conformed strictly to Statutory requirements.

In the preliminary stages of the investigations each property owner was supplied with a plan on which he was requested to define the curtilage of his property.

The persons on whom notices were required to be served included : Owner, Occupier, Agent, Mortgagee, Lessee and Chief Rent Owner.

No. 1, Glynne Street, Saltney, and No. 1, Queen Street, Saltney, were dwelling-houses each containing one living room and one bedroom and were without the common amenities of a dwelling-house. These houses have been closed and, after interior alterations, have been added respectively to an adjoining dwelling-house.

Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9, Garden Lane, and Nos. 10 and 12, Goss Street, have been demolished by the Corporation as Owners of the property.

Nos. 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, St. Werburgh Street, have been demolished by the Owners after informal action by the Local Authority.

78a, Lower Bridge Street was closed for human habitation and the Local Authority have accepted an undertaking from the owner.

No. 11, Black Diamond Street, and No. 2a, Crewe Street, were premises occupied as dwelling-houses and were not adapted for that purpose. As the result of informal action these premises are to be used for business purposes only.

No. 2, Francis Court and No. 1, Fluitts Court, Cuppin Street, have been demolished after service of demolition orders.

### NOTICES.

The following Statutory Housing Notices were served during the year :—

Form A.—Requests for Names and Addresses of persons having control or interests in dwellings .....	195
Form 1.—Notice of intention to survey buildings, etc. ....	510
Form 2.—Notice to persons having control of a dwelling-house to execute works under Section 17 .....	4
Form 3.—Notice declaring expenses incurred by Local Authority for works under Section 17 to be repayable by weekly or other instalments .....	4
Form 4.—Notice of time and place where the question of making a Demolition Order will be considered .....	13
Form 5.—Order for demolition of a dwelling-house .....	9

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.	Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year—	
(1)	(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts .....	1440
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	4963
(2)	(a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	413
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	1585
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	249
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	1180
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices : Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .....	1090
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
	A.—Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—	
	(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	4
	(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
	(a) By owners .....	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	4
	B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
	(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	33
	(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
	(a) By owners .....	33
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	0
	C.—Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :	
	(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	2
	(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	2
	D.—Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—	
	(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	0
	(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	0



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### MILK SUPPLY.

The number of milk producers on the register is thirteen, the same as last year. Twelve of these producers retail milk from their own stock. The cattle on the farms within the City have been inspected by the Veterinary Surgeon at least twice during the year, but his services are at the disposal of the cow-keepers as often as found necessary. The farmers are very willing to take advantage of these services and frequently ask for advice. No charge is made for the services of the Veterinary Surgeon or Sanitary Inspectors in this matter.

In addition to the Veterinary Surgeon the Sanitary Inspectors frequently inspect the shippens and dairy premises. There are no regular hours of visits but special efforts are made to make the visits at such times when the milking is in operation.

The milk supplied from the City shippens is satisfactory both for cleanliness and chemical composition.

There were 243 visits paid to the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk-shops within the City during the year. Such defects as were found on the premises received immediate attention.

At the year end there were 155 persons registered to sell milk within the City. Of this number 87 have their dairy premises outside our Area.

Proceedings were instituted under Section 6 of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, for contraventions committed in July and December. These proceedings were instituted against the same defendant for not having his name and address conspicuously inscribed on his vehicle and he was fined 10/- and £2 respectively.

### CLEANLINESS OF MILK.

140 samples of milk have been examined bacteriologically in the Municipal Laboratory, for the purpose of determining the cleanliness of the City milk supply.

One hundred and twenty-two (87.2 per cent.) of the samples were found satisfactory. These had a bacterial count of less than 200,000 germs per cubic centimetre.

By comparison with previous years, set out below, the standard of cleanliness of the milk is below that of 1928, 1930, 1931, 1932 and 1933.

Year.	Percentage of Satisfactory Samples.
1928	88.4
1929	75.8
1930	91.7
1931	87.5
1932	91.16
1933	88.8
1934	87.2

The standard of cleanliness of the milk retailed in the City is very disappointing having regard to the propaganda that has taken place for many years. The public are advised by this propaganda to "Drink More Milk" and special efforts are made to point out the food value of milk. Unless the milk is clean and free from disease all propaganda is futile.

Much harm may result from the drinking of unclean milk, therefore cleanliness is of paramount importance. Indeed it is of little value to have a milk rich in fat and solids not fat if such milk is highly contaminated with filth and germs of disease.

With the Scheme of the Milk Marketing Board now firmly established there can be no excuse for the production of unclean milk. The milk producer is assured of a fair price for a good article and prompt payment for the same.

It does not require new buildings or expensive plant to produce clean milk, but merely the application of the elementary principles of hygiene.

Of the eighteen (or 12.8 per cent.) samples adversely reported upon during 1934 thirteen were found during the months of April (4), June (4), and July (5).

The vendors, wholesale dealers, producers and Medical Officers of Health of the districts in which the unclean milk was produced were written to in each case as in former years.

*Bacillus Coli*, denoting manural contamination is still far too often found in the milk, only twenty-nine of the total samples (140) examined (or 20.7 per cent.) being free in both 1.0 c.c. and 0.1 c.c. This is a slight improvement on last year.

For the guidance of milk producers a simple code of rules has been formulated, a copy being sent with letters calling attention to contamination. Copies of these instructions can be had free by milk producers on application to the City Health Department.

The following table sets out in detail the work done during 1934 :—

# BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF MILK, 1934.

1934. MONTH.	GERMS PER 1 C.C.							Number Letters sent.	BACILLUS COLI.		
	Under 50,000.	50,000 and under 100,000.	100,000 and under 200,000.	200,000 and under 500,000.	500,000 and under 1,000,000.	1,000,000 and over.	Total Examined.		Present in 1'0 c.c. or less.	Present in 1'0 c.c. absent in 0'1 c.c.	Absent in both 1'0 c.c. or 0'1 c.c.
January	8	4	3	1	...	...	16	1	10	2	4
February	10	3	3	...	...	...	16	...	8	4	4
March	9	4	2	1	...	...	16	1	7	8	1
April	7	1	...	...	3	1	12	4	8	3	1
May	6	1	1	...	...	...	8	...	2	3	3
June	4	3	1	2	...	2	12	4	8	3	2
July	5	3	3	...	1	4	16	5	11	2	3
August	8	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	4	1	3
September	6	...	1	...	1	...	8	1	3	2	3
October	7	4	7	...	...	2	20	2	9	6	5
November	6	1	1	...	...	...	8	...	4	4	...
December	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	76	24	22	4	5	9	140	18	74	37	29
Percentages	54'3%	17'1%	15'7%	2'8%	3'5%	6'4%	...	12'8%	52'8%	26'4%	20'7%

## CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS OF MILK.

During the year, sixty-one samples of milk were chemically examined, seven, or 11.31 per cent., of which were certified below the prescribed standards, i.e., Fat 3 per cent. and Non-fatty solids 8.5 per cent.

Samples Nod. 9, 22, 28, 31, 69 and 122 contained only 2.88 per cent., 2.80 per cent., 2.24 per cent., 2.72 per cent., 2.85 per cent., and 2.80 per cent. of fat respectively. Sample No. 30 contained 5.6 per cent. added water whilst sample No. 31, in addition to being deficient in Fat contained 3.5 per cent. added water.

The Public Analyst certified milk sample No. 36, which contained 8.44 non-fatty solids, to be genuine after the application of the Freezing Point Test.

Sample No. 95 gave a high figure for fat (7.85 per cent.) the reason most probably being the vendor realised the milk was to be tested. A subsequent sample, No. 109, obtained from the same dairyman was certified to contain 3.55 per cent. Fat.

The circumstances relating to the unsatisfactory samples were considered by the Public Health Committee with the following results :—

(a) The vendors of samples 9, 69 and 122 were sent warning letters by the Town Clerk.

(b) Legal Proceedings were instituted in the remaining instances.

The case against the vendor of No. 22 was dismissed with costs (14/6), whilst the vendors of Samples Nod. 28, 30 and 31 were fined £2 and 10/6 costs; £2; £2 and £3 13s. 6d. costs respectively.

Although the average quality of the milk may be considered satisfactory when compared with the standard prescribed in the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1901, it falls below that of last year. In 1933 the average composition of 50 samples of milk was 3.78 per cent. Fat and 8.74 per cent. Solids not Fat as compared with the average of 61 samples taken in 1934 which proved to be 3.46 per cent. Fat and 8.77 per cent. Solids not Fat respectively.



The following table gives separately the results of the analyses :—

Date 1934.	Sample No.	Fat per cent.	Solids not Fat per cent.	Date 1934.	Sample No.	Fat per cent.	Solids not Fat per cent.
Jan. 23	1	3'10	8'84	May 29	60	3'40	8'98
	2	3'64	9'06		61	3'40	9'03
	3	3'25	8'75		62	3'51	8'50
	4	3'36	8'84		63	3'06	8'70
	5	3'50	8'74		64	3'55	9'05
	6	3'20	8'80		65	3'20	8'92
Feb. 7	7	3'50	9'00	July 3	66	3'10	8'93
	8	4'13	8'87		67	3'00	8'64
	9	2'88	8'77		68	3'05	8'81
	10	3'16	8'84		69	2'85	8'80
Feb. 10	11	3'10	9'00		70	3'10	8'68
Mar. 6	22	2'80	8'97	July 5	71	3'15	8'55
	23	3'50	9'14	Sept. 25	92	3'35	8'55
	24	3'30	8'64		93	3'85	8'77
	25	3'68	8'90		94	3'70	8'80
	26	3'53	8'87		95	7'85	8'50
	27	3'82	9'00		96	3'35	8'93
Mar. 8	28	2'24	8'80		97	3'40	9'00
Mar. 11	29	3'85	8'95	Oct. 3	98	4'10	8'70
	30	3'04	8'02		99	4'00	8'88
	31	2'72	8'20		100	3'35	8'65
	32	3'30	8'96		101	3'20	9'00
Mar. 13	33	3'50	8'76		102	3'80	9'10
	34	3'10	8'70	Nov. 27	104	3'40	8'68
	35	3'35	8'61		105	4'10	8'78
	36	3'30	8'44		106	3'30	8'70
	37	3'50	8'57		107	4'0	8'50
<i>Averages :—</i> Fat 3'46% Solids not Fat 8'77%					108	4'0	8'82
					109	3'55	8'55
				Nov. 29	119	3'45	8'75
					120	3'40	8'50
					121	4'60	8'54
					122	2'80	9'08
					123	3'10	8'87

### FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

There were 139 samples submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis, nine (or 6.4 per cent.) of which were certified to be not genuine.

In addition to the food and drugs samples submitted for examination, there was a sample of spraying oil. During routine inspection of food premises a fishmonger was found spraying his slabs and the fish with the oil. He stated that the oil supplied to him was represented by the vendor to possess no injurious properties. To determine this, an informal sample of the oil was procured and analysed. As a result the fishmonger ceased using the oil.

The circumstances in respect of the nine samples adversely reported upon, and the administrative action taken in respect of same, are set out in the following table :—

No. of Sample.	Name of Article.	Result of Analysis.	Action Taken.
9	Milk ..	Deficient in Fat to the extent of 4%	Warning letter sent to the vendor by Public Health Committee after consideration of all the circumstances.
12	Butter ..	Contained 1.5% of water in excess of the standard of 16%	Legal proceedings instituted against vendor. Case dismissed on payment of costs (14/6).
22	Milk ..	Deficient in Fat to the extent of 4.3%	Ditto
28	Milk ..	Deficient in Fat to the extent of 25.3%	Legal proceedings instituted. Vendor fined £2 0 0 and 10/6 costs.
30	Milk ..	Contained 5.6% added water.	} Legal proceedings instituted. Vendor, who was also producer, fined £2 0 0 in each case and costs £3 13 6.
31	Milk ..	Contained 3.5% added water and deficient 9.3% in the Fat.	
69	Milk ..	Deficient to the extent of 5% Fat.	Warning letter sent to the Vendor by Public Health Committee after consideration of all the circumstances.
110 (Informal)	Vinegar ..	100% Artificial Vinegar.	No action as declaration made at time of purchase that article was not Malt Vinegar.
122	Milk ..	6.7% deficient in Fat.	Warning letter sent to vendor by Public Health Committee after consideration of all the circumstances.
Special Sample (Informal No. 85)	Spraying oil for fish.	Sample consisted of Paraffin Oil mixed with a trace of other oils.	Fishmonger advised to refrain from using this Oil for the purpose intended.

## FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

I have the honour to present my Report for the past year.

I received during the year 139 samples for analysis as shown on the attached list. Nine samples were found to be adulterated. There were 7 samples of Milk deficient as under :—

- No. 9 was 4 per cent. deficient in Fat.
- No. 22 was 4.3 per cent deficient in Fat.
- No. 28 was 25.3 per cent. deficient in Fat.
- No. 69 was 5 per cent. deficient in Fat.
- No. 122 was 6.7 per cent. deficient in Fat.
- No. 30 contained 5.6 per cent. of Added Water.
- No. 31 contained 3.5 per cent. of Added Water and was 9.3 per cent. deficient in Fat.

No cases of the addition of Preservatives or artificial colouring were found and all the Milk samples were free from dirty sediment.

One sample of Butter contained 1.5 per cent. of water in excess of the standard.

One sample of Vinegar, sold as Table Vinegar, consisted of 100 per cent. Artificial Vinegar.

In the 5 samples of Ice Cream the Fat varied from 1.65 per cent. to 20 per cent. A definite standard for Ice Cream appears to be necessary.

The following articles were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis:—

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

ANALYSES.					ADULTERATED SAMPLES ETC.		
Article	Formal	In- formal.	Appeal to Cow	Total.	Formal	In- formal.	Total.
Milk ... ..	56	...	5	61	7	...	7
Butter ... ..	4	...	...	4	1	...	1
Rice ... ..	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Rice Flakes ... ..	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Tea ... ..	...	2	...	2	...	...	...
Ground Ginger ... ..	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Pepper ... ..	...	2	...	2	...	...	...
Cream ... ..	...	3	...	3	...	...	...
Peas ... ..	...	3	...	3	...	...	...
Self-Raising Flour ... ..	...	2	...	2	...	...	...
Jams ... ..	4	...	...	4	...	...	...
Olive Oil ... ..	...	2	...	2	...	...	...
Spirits of Turpentine ... ..	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Aspirin Tablets ... ..	...	2	...	2	...	...	...
Camphorated Oil ... ..	...	2	...	2	...	...	...
Glycerine ... ..	...	2	...	2	...	...	...
Turpentine ... ..	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Ice Cream ... ..	...	5	...	5	...	...	...
Sweets ... ..	...	4	...	4	...	...	...
Custard Powders ... ..	...	2	...	2	...	...	...
Boracic Powders ... ..	...	2	...	2	...	...	...
Margarine ... ..	...	3	...	3	...	...	...
Lard ... ..	...	3	...	3	...	...	...
Whisky ... ..	2	...	...	2	...	...	...
Rum ... ..	2	...	...	2	...	...	...
Port Wine ... ..	2	...	...	2	...	...	...
Tinned Tomatoes ... ..	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Vinegar ... ..	...	1	...	1	...	1	1
Mixed Fruit ... ..	...	2	...	2	...	...	...
Currants ... ..	...	2	...	2	...	...	...
Marmalade ... ..	...	2	...	2	...	...	...
Mincemeat ... ..	...	3	...	3	...	...	...
Beer ... ..	...	4	...	4	...	...	...
Sandwich Paste ... ..	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Coffee... ..	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Ham & Egg Paste... ..	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Raisin Wine... ..	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Cherries ... ..	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Totals ... ..	70	64	5	139	8	1	9

## ADULTERATED SAMPLES, &amp;c.

Article.	Serial No.	Formal or Informal.	Nature of Adulteration or irregularity.
Milk	9	F	4 per cent. deficient in Fat.
Milk	22	F	4'30 per cent. deficient in Fat.
Milk	28	F	25'30 per cent. deficient in Fat.
Milk	30	F	Contained 5'6 per cent. of added water.
Milk	31	F	Contained 3'5 per cent. of added water and was 9'3 per cent. deficient in Fat.
Milk	69	F	5 per cent. deficient in Fat.
Milk	122	F	6'7 per cent. deficient in Fat.
Butter	12	F	Contained 1'5 per cent. of water in excess of the standard of 16 per cent.
Vinegar	110	I	100 per cent. Artificial Vinegar.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

HAROLD LOWE,

*Public Analyst.*

## MEAT.

There is no change in the number of slaughterhouses within the City. Of the five existing, three are licensed and two registered. One of the registered slaughterhouses is owned by the City Council. The Public Abattoir in Queen Street is in the occupation of the City Council and is privately owned. The Public Abattoir has accommodation for about forty butchers and is sufficient for our present needs, without undue overcrowding. The greatest strain on the organisation of the Abattoir is experienced on Tuesdays immediately following the Cattle Fair, but the amount of slaughtering which takes place on these days relieves the congestion on the stock remaining alive. All the slaughter houses are in a reasonably satisfactory condition and are generally kept in a cleanly state.

The work of meat inspection has been maintained at the usual high standard. It is the invariable practice of the City Master Butchers to request the examination of meat supplies from sources outside the City area. This part of the work has increased considerably.

No contravention occurred during the year in respect of which legal proceedings were instituted.

Two carcasses of pork, which had been prepared for sale some distance outside the City, were sent to the Public Abattoir for inspection preparatory to sale. On arrival the meat was found to be unfit for food owing to advanced decomposition. Circumstances required seizure of the pork in question, and further investigations were made. After considering all the circumstances it was decided that no further action be taken in the matter.

One instance of pathological interest occurred in the finding of the carcase and offal of a sheep in an advanced stage of generalised tuberculosis. In mutton this is an extremely rare condition and the Public Health Committee expressed appreciation of the vigilance of the Meat Inspectors.

Meat Marketing and mechanical stunning are now part of the routine methods practiced in the slaughterhouses.

During the year the following animals were slaughtered in the Public Abattoir :—

Cattle .....	1253
Calves .....	687
Sheep .....	10541
Pigs .....	1432
	<hr/>
Total ...	13913
	<hr/>

For the purposes of food inspection the following visits were made :—

Slaughterhouses (not including Abattoir) .....	1547
Butchers' Shops .....	1208
Fishmongers .....	315
Other Food Shops and Stores .....	669
	<hr/>
Total visits ...	3739
	<hr/>

At the Abattoir, the Superintendent, who is a qualified meat inspector, is in regular attendance, and assists the Inspectors in the examination of Meat.



The following is a list of food condemned during the year :—

ARTICLES CONDEMNED.				Number.	REASON FOR CONDEMNATION.
<b>BEEF.</b>					
Carcases and offal...	...	...	26	Generalised Tuberculosis	
Organs or portions of carcasses	...	...	357	Localised Tuberculosis	
"	"	...	108	Parasitic & other conditions	
<b>MUTTON.</b>					
Carcases and offal ...	...	...	5	Oedema	
"	"	...	3	Febrile	
Carcase and offal	...	...	1	Tuberculosis	
Organs or portions of carcasses	...	...	92	Parasitic and other conditions	
<b>PORK.</b>					
Carcases and offal ...	...	...	21	Generalised Tuberculosis	
"	"	...	3	Febrile	
"	"	...	3	Decomposition	
"	"	...	1	Septicæmia	
"	"	...	1	Pyæmia	
Organs or portions of carcasses	...	...	344	Localised Tuberculosis	
"	"	...	39	Parasitic and other conditions	
<b>VEAL.</b>					
Organs or other portions	...	...	13	Parasitic and other conditions	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS.</b>					
Mixed Fruit (Tins)	...	...	196	Decomposition	
Herrings (stones)	...	...	25	"	
Canadian Eggs	...	...	111	"	
Red Plums (tins)	...	...	54	"	
Frozen Chickens	...	...	18	"	
Tomatoes (tins)	...	...	47	"	
Balloons with liquorice mouthpieces	...	...	36	Dirty and unwholesome	
Savoury ducks (lbs)	...	...	18	Decomposition	
Cod (boxes)	...	...	5	"	
Polonies	...	...	12	"	
Cooked Hams (tins)	...	...	5	"	
Cod fillets (boxes)	...	...	7	"	
Hake (Box)	...	...	1	"	
Apple Crush (tins)	...	...	2	"	
Peaches (cases)	...	...	5	"	
Luncheon Sausage	...	...	2	"	
Black Puddings	...	...	4	"	
Brawn (lbs)	...	...	10	"	
Halibut (lbs.)	...	...	35	"	
Luncheon Tongue (lbs)	...	...	3	"	
Ox Tongue (tin)	...	...	1	"	
Plums (baskets)	...	...	48	"	
Haddock (stones)	...	...	3	"	
Jellied Veal (tins)	...	...	3	"	

Estimated weight of food stuffs condemned :—12 tons, 10 cwts., 2qrs.



Included in the above list are forty-seven tins of tomatoes. The tins in question were consigned to a butcher for the purpose of the manufacture of tomato sausages. The ends of the tins were bulged but there was no evidence of bursting. They were all springy and the ends could be readily pressed in and out. Two of the tins on puncture proved the presence of gas, but the remainder gave no evidence of gas, neither was there any extrusion of the contents. The appearance of the tins warranted condemnation. The consignors of the tomatoes were emphatic in their statement that they had a big trade for this class of food and in their opinion the contents of the tins were perfectly fit for human food. As there was no evidence as to the bacterial condition of the contents of the tins the surrender of the food was insisted upon.

With a view to ascertaining the chemical and bacteriological condition of the tomatoes, samples were submitted for examination to the City Public Analyst and to Dr. W. G. Savage.

Dr. Savage states in his report:—"The springy nature of the tins makes them unsaleable. No food Inspector could be expected to pass them, since only detailed laboratory examination could settle the reason for this abnormal condition."

The opinion of Dr. Savage confirms the action taken by the City Inspectors in this case.

#### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

This Act became operative on the 1st January, 1934. Forty-nine licences were issued to fit and proper persons for the slaughter of animals.

There have been no contraventions of the Act during the year.

### CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF FOOD.

The chemical examination of food is undertaken by the City Analyst whilst the bacteriological examination of milk is carried out in our own Municipal Laboratory.

Samples of milk for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli are sent to the Chester Royal Infirmary.

As previously mentioned samples of tinned tomatoes were examined by Dr. W. G. Savage after the Minister of Health had stated that the Food Department did not undertake such examinations.

In cases of suspected food poisoning the Local Authority is required to send samples of the suspected food, together with other material, to the Medical Department of the Ministry of Health.

#### (c) NUTRITION.

The scheme for the provision of free milk to badly nourished school children was continued during the year.

Full particulars are given in the Annual Report of the School Medical Officer.

**DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 to 1925.****TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1925.**

It was found necessary to deal with eleven animals during the year. Eight were found in City shippens and three in the cattle sale-yards.

The owner of one of the animals was served with notices to return it from the saleyard to his farm. Due notice of such transfer was given to the Authorities in the area concern so that the necessary action could be taken.

In the ten remaining cases the animals were slaughtered under my supervision and that of the Meat Inspectors. Post mortem examinations proved advanced tuberculosis in nine cases and localised tuberculosis in one. Compensation was paid to the owners in each case in accordance with the terms of the Order.

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries was notified of the administrative action taken in the respective cases.

Biological examinations were made by Dr. Grace at the Royal Infirmary, Chester, of thirty-four samples of milk. Of these, four (or 11.7 per cent.) were certified to contain tubercle bacilli. The County Authorities were notified of the findings in respect of three cases and they took the necessary action. The other positive milk sample was a City case and was being followed up at the year end.

I made inspections of the stock in the shippens within the City on at least two occasions during the year as a routine and on special occasions by request.

I also attended the Cattle Saleyards on the Sale days (Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the year for the purpose of making inspection under the Order.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

**H. H. ALDRED,**

*Veterinary Surgeon.*

No action was taken during the year under section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified.	Cases Treated.		Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	At Home.	In Hospital				
5	5	0	5	—	—	—

### TUBERCULOSIS, 1934.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and mortality during 1934 are given below :—

Age Periods.			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
			Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0—	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—	...	...	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
5—	...	...	2	2	1	4	0	0	0	2
15—	...	...	3	5	3	3	2	3	1	1
25—	...	...	5	7	0	0	5	4	0	0
35—	...	...	2	5	0	0	1	4	0	0
45—	...	...	4	1	0	0	5	1	0	0
55—	...	...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards...			0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	...		19	23	5	7	13	13	1	4

During the year five deaths occurred in non-notified cases—3 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary. In each case the doctor concerned was written to and a satisfactory explanation obtained. One of these cases was an inward transfer.

### PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

There has been no occasion to act on this regulation.

### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

So far there has been no occasion to put this Section into force.

## Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1934 and previous years.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT			TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT				
		Un- corrected Number	Nett		Number ‡	Rate	Number ‡	Rate per 1000 Nett Births	Of Non- residents registered in the District	Of Resi- dents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number †	Rate							Number †	Rate per 1000 Nett Births	Number †	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
1925	41,922	869	851	20.30	593	14.12	155	128	61	71.6	566	13.5		
1926	41,913	873	836	19.94	569	13.31	136	113	67	80.0	546	13.0		
1927	42,200	764	697	16.51	552	13.08	139	113	49	70.30	526	12.46		
1928	40,982	791	696	16.9	554	13.51	190	103	41	58.9	467	10.8		
1929	40,920	805	707	17.25	689	16.83	211	148	55	77.7	626	14.3		
1930	40,910	798	667	16.3	616	15.5	172	141	48	71.96	585	13.60		
1931	41,380	799	671	16.11	595	14.37	196	147	46	68.5	546	12.47		
1932	41,350	804	686	16.5	592	14.31	205	150	37	53.9	537	12.98		
1933	41,070	698	590	14.4	606	14.7	200	136	40	67.7	542	13.19		
1934	40,800	795	654	16.0	613	15.0	248	172	47	71.8	533	13.06		

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 2,862

No. of inhabited houses, 10,435. Average No. of persons per house, 3.9.

\* Total deaths occurring in Chester whether of residents or non-residents.

† Births and deaths corrected for those births and deaths properly belonging to Chester, but occurring outside the District, or occurring in the District but properly belong outside.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

This year has seen an increase in the number of cases of diphtheria—43 notified compared with the very low figure of 18 in 1933.

There was a widespread epidemic in the Northern part of England during the autumn but Chester escaped and no epidemic was noted during the year.

The number of cases of scarlet fever notified during the year was 183 compared with 195 in 1933.

The epidemic was maintained throughout the year. Reference to hospital treatment will be found earlier in the report.

Hospital treatment has been replaced in suitable cases by nursing and supervision at home.

Immunisation against diphtheria has been carried on as last year. The number of children immunised is as follows :—

School children .....	83
Children in hospital .....	90
	—
Total ...	173
	—

Measles and whooping cough provided 65 cases and 74 cases respectively, compared with 100 and 36 in 1933.

If complications were present or home conditions unsuitable, cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

During the year there were two deaths from measles and one from whooping cough.

The number of cases of pneumonia showed a decrease from 54 in 1933 to 42 in 1934.

The arrangements mentioned in last year's Report for the supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin for use in necessitous cases have been maintained.





## CLEANSING AND DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PERSONS AND THEIR BELONGINGS.

A shampoo station is freely used for the cleansing of heads of school children. In cases of body vermin, which are fortunately few, they are treated at the Disinfecting Station at the Isolation Hospital, where clothes and bedding are also treated. Occasionally we are asked to deal with an adult, who is dealt with in a similar fashion.

## CANCER.

There were 66 deaths during the year from cancer, a decrease of 3 from 1933.

The Chester Royal Infirmary is fully equipped and staffed to diagnose and treat all cases of cancer.

Treatment by radium under the supervision of a consultant from the Manchester Radium Institute is available as is also deep X-Ray therapy.

## BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920.

The care of the blind in Chester has been delegated to the Chester Society for the Home Teaching of the Blind. The Local Authority has adopted a scheme for regulating the financial assistance given to them and their position has been improved during the year. A general supervision of the work of the Society in Chester is undertaken by the Local Authority and the homes of the blind visited and their comfort seen to as far as possible. The Local Authority have two representatives on the Committee of Management.

There were 73 persons on the register at the end of the year and the Local Authority paid to the Society £2,100 in the year, and have estimated £2,500 for the current year. There have been 15 licences issued for wireless sets to blind people.

# Infant Mortality during the Year 1934.

CAUSES OF DEATH.										
All Causes { Certified. Uncertified.	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total Deaths 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 Months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
	18 1	5 ..	3 ..	2 ..	28 1	8 ..	6 ..	1 ..	3 ..	46 1
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Chicken pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Tuberculous Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Abdominal Tuberculosis (b) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Other Tuberculosis Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Laryngitis ..	1	..	1	1	3	..	1	..	1	5
Bronchitis ..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
{ Pneumonia (all forms) ..	..	..	..	1	1	2	3	..	1	7
Diarrhoea ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Enteritis ..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Gastritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Syphilis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rickets ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suffocation, Overlying ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at Birth ..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1
Atelectasis ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
{ Congenital Malformations (c) ..	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	5
Premature Births ..	13	3	..	..	16	..	..	..	..	16
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	4
Other Causes ..	1	1	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	3
Totals ..	19	5	3	2	29	8	6	1	3	47

Nett Births in the year, legitimate, 621; illegitimate, 33.

Nett Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 43; illegitimate infants, 4.



# Administration of the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1901 & 1907

IN CONNECTION WITH

## Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Homework, 1934.

### 1. INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF  
NUISANCES.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	105	9	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	70	2	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	28	—	—
Total ... ..	203	11	—

### 2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars. (1)	No. of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found (2)	Remed'd (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspect'r (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	3	3	—	—
Want of Ventilation ... ..	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ... ..	5	5	—	—
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient ... ..	1	1	—	—
{ unsuitable or defective ... ..	4	4	—	—
{ not separate for sexes ... ..	2	2	—	—
Offences under the Factory & Workshop Act :				
Other Offences ... ..	—	—	2	—
Total ... ..	16	16	2	Nil

### OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES.

#### SECTION 108.

Nature of Work. (1)	Instances. (2)	Notices Served. (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Wearing Apparel.—			
Making, &c, ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cleaning and Washing ... ..	"	"	"



